
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free-Response Question 1

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
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Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

(A) Describe a social movement. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Large groups of people pushing collectively for significant social or political change.
- Multiple groups or individuals collectively advocating for broad social change.

Scoring Note: Responses may include specific social movements if the response correctly *describes* a social movement. Naming an example of a social movement alone is not enough for credit.

(B) Describe a difference between social movements and political parties. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Social movements are informal organizations, while political parties are formal organizations.
- Social movements organize for social change, while political parties organize to win elections.
- Social movements may choose to endorse a candidate(s), while political parties actually select candidates.
- Social movements advocate for a cause or social issue, while political parties create broad policy platforms or ideologies.
- Social movements may use unconventional methods to achieve their goals, while political parties rely more on conventional methods.

(C) Explain how social movements affect political change. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- By encouraging rallies, protests, and public demonstrations, social movements pressure governments to enact policies.
- Social movements encourage governments to enact policies by supporting specific candidates or parties in elections.
- Members of social movements contact or lobby political officials to pressure governments to enact policies.
- Some social movements may rely on violence to force political changes.

(D) Explain why a democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- A democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement in order to:
 - limit the social movement's use of violence.
 - reduce a threat to the security of the regime, state, or people.

Total for question 1 4 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- a) A social movement is an informal, grassroots level organization ^{and form of participation} that ^{advocates} involve protest and ~~spontaneous~~ for some form of political or social change.
- b) Social movements are often informal and can involve broad scopes of political participation ~~and~~ and a large scope of individuals to put pressure & advocate for some type of change. In contrast, political parties are more formal and organized, and have a ~~more~~ clear ~~more~~ policy agenda with a more limited group of members who share similar values and beliefs. This shows how social movements are less organized w/ broad participation while political parties are more organized with members who share common values.
- c) Social movements can affect political change through modes such as protests. Protests can gain popularity and increased participation which can put pressure on the government to implement some form of policy change that is being advocated for. Since social movements can threaten ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~legitimacy~~ ^{legitimacy} of a government, these movements can influence new legislation and policy changes ^{from the gov} to appear the demands of the members and avoid further conflict.
- d) A democratic regime may impose restrictions on a social movement if they become violent. If a movement becomes violent, then a democratic regime will impose restrictions to protect the safety of ~~the~~ ^{the} citizens and instill some form of public order to protect the people and the ~~government~~ ^{legitimacy of the government} ^{gov}.

Page 2

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A) A social movement is a group of individuals in society usually attempting to promote/protest for change in society or political institutions.
- B) Social Movements are not always related to government & don't have an organized structure. Political parties are directly involved in the government & politics and are organized & aren't directed at one ~~as~~ issue.
- C) Social movements are often related to government change & with enough people & influence behind a movement can affect the change of laws, who's in power, etc.
- D) A democratic regime may impose restrictions on social movements to keep law & order. While democracies do promote freedom of speech, social movements can create civil unrest leading to unlawful activity which undermines the stability of a nation.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A social movement is a shift in public opinion leading to the enactment of new policies or the changing of old policies that are no longer valued in the current social political climate.

A difference between social movements & political parties is that officials are elected directly into political parties unlike social movements which are lead by public concern or unofficial leaders.

Social movements under a representative governmental system can speed up political change. Giving ^{public} support to the creation of new policies & shifting the political culture.

A democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement if it causes a large public ~~disturbance~~ disturbance or ~~threat~~ threat to public security. Such as hate speech.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Question 1

Conceptual Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of social movements and how they affect political and social change. First, students were expected to describe a social movement. In addition, students had to describe a difference between social movements and political parties. Students then needed to explain how social movements affect political change. Finally, students needed to explain why democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement.

Sample: 1A

Score: 4

(A) The response earned 1 point for describing a social movement as “an informal grassroots level organization ... that ... advocates for some form of political or social change.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a difference between social movements and political parties by stating, “Social movements are often informal ... In contrast, political parties are more formal and organized.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for explaining how social movements affect political change by stating, “Social movements can affect political change through ... protests ... which can put pressure on the government to implement ... policy change.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why a democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement: “A democratic regime may impose restrictions on a social movement if they become violent ... to protect the safety of the citizens.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 3

(A) The response earned 1 point for describing a social movement as “a group of individuals... attempting to promote/protest for change in society.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a difference between social movements and political parties by stating, “Social Movements ... don’t have an organized structure. Political parties ... are organized.”

(C) The response did not earn a point for explaining how social movements affect political change. The response explains an outcome of a social movement, but it lacks specificity in explaining how social movements affect political change.

Question 1 (continued)

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why a democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement by stating this may be done “to keep law & order ... social movements can create civil unrest leading to unlawful activity which undermines the stability of a nation.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing a social movement because it incorrectly describes a social movement as “a shift in public opinion.” The response describes an outcome of a social movement, but not a social movement itself.

(B) The response did not earn a point for describing a difference between social movements and political parties because it incorrectly states, “officials are elected directly into political parties unlike social movements which are lead by public concern or unofficial leaders.” Although social movements may be led by unofficial leaders, officials are not directly elected into political parties.

(C) The response did not earn a point for explaining how social movements affect political change. The response explains an outcome of a social movement, but it lacks specificity in explaining how social movements affect political change.

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why a democratic regime might impose restrictions on a social movement by stating that one may do this “if it causes a ... threat to public security.”